THE VOYAGE.

Me-self ,chunky and raider left Howth 28th June ( I think). On our holliers, we had eaten in the club and planned to leave around 2200hrs. The first intended stop was Kilmore Quay - bar a pit stop for dog in Arklow ( I didn't want to be rude and say piss stop). We got away a little later than planned as the first mate (that's chunky) was deep in conversation with a pint or two so while he waited for the effect of the alcohol to wear off he had another pint.

Arklow around 4am a free berth in the fish dock. Free ' cause it was 4am. We didn't stay long for obvious reasons. I'd planned to navigate old style,no plotter but once again I got lazy And stuck it on, a plotter without using paper chart is very dangerous.

I hopped off crab rk at bray once. It didn't show on the plotter on the scale I was using. I was rock hopping in a race to keep out of the tide.

Kilmore : usual grand little spot Kehoe's good food as always

Wooden house not getting the clientele. But they rent holiday apartments,seems busy.

Dungarvan : new pontoon failed. last year it was great. pontoons were extended and dredged. But it silted up worse so no fin keelers

Chinese restaurant :Rose garden beside cinema. Allowed dog in f.o.c

Worth supporting.

So Dungarvan supports bilge keelers and dogs.

Cobh quay pub marina untenable

Big sea big wind. Tied on but had to leave couldn't stand on pontoon getting off wasn't easy. Moved around corner to Rcyc

Royal cork : wedding on. joined mourners er' guests.

Told to go to food station by catering manager. Did and was impolitely told to get off the Q, by a very pretty lady maybe not a "lady". I forgave her , not that she apologised or any thing. she was the brides sis' and probably thought I was gate crashing. Meanwhile chunky was being back slapped and welcomed by the brides father. Probably the happiest day of his life. After all he was getting rid of yer wans sister

Big difference between men and women ( no wonder there's so many of those 3D guys around now )

Royal cork was very enjoyable

Very quiet in the bar though

Catering was by contract, very good

Fed us + dog. Even when meals weren't on. Steak and stuff when the natives were on sambo's

Very windy outside, inside cork harbour very deceptive. Kinsale next

9 days there weather bound no body escaping. Club empty most of the time. Chunky had to leave ( visa ran out)

The plan was for Cape,Sherkin,schull,Baltimore continue west till the dog food ran out. But a couple of survivors coming back said don't go conditions bad for berthing.

A half calm day we legged it for home. Stuck our nose into oyster haven 16 July to remember Seamus. ( a year ago we lost him. Ar dheis Dé) Weather wasn't good enough to do anything else there.

Kinsale treated us well on berthing fees, I did claim winter rates due to weather.

Ballycotton

on thur 16th tied on to a new 2 boat pontoon there, beside a "no overnight berthing sign."

Behind a half decker. Went up to the pub restaurant first one on the left.

Sure know how to charge.€35 for a steak and a pint. And they were busy

Practically no fish being be caught on rods. Mackerel tiny . Pollack well!...Still had some dog food.

Away to waterford city next morn'

We sailed out of ballycotton

In the hrs of early morn

And we ploughed our course to eastwards

Before the August sun was born

The sea was gently rolling

And the sun was not yet hot

Like my breakfast on the cooker

Sent a message that I got

For the smell of sizzling bacon

That brought juices to my mouth

Said plainly by its absence

That the gaz had just run out.

Waterford

9 days there too, waterford has a great looking flood barrier. All glass along the river.

Very quite at night town closes early. Except the pubs. The square was populated with Roma beggars during the day. Some of them very well dressed teenagers all girls. I think that's child abuse.

Back for Kilmore.

On our way we passed a bay

Where far above the sea

With a dead 's mans stare

Stood a sailor there

And he pointing out at me

Now brownstone head we put to bed

The hook will pass us soon

For tonight we're free in Kilmore quay

To watch the breaching of the moon.

Left boat in Kilmore for a week.

And returned for it with a crew of 4

Dave Appleyard. Gerry Sargent,

Stephen Lambe. And myself. Dog wouldn't come. He wouldn't be able to sleep with that lot snoring.

A great Westerley wind home. we Hand steered half way home to play the gusts and waves.

Still trying to retrieve photos. I might have stored them in i cloud and they probably got washed out with all the rain.

That was almost the end but had a Wednesday away with Gerry o Neill David A.Gary Davis.Peter. Pat C,& myself. All on geriatric to greystones.. Really nice trip.